



SUBSCRIBERS: EXPRESSNEWS.COM

Q: How do I activate my unlimited digital access?
A: Go to ExpressNews.com/activate and follow the instructions to activate or upgrade your account for unlimited ExpressNews.com access.

Q: How do I access the electronic replica of the newspaper?
Log in to ExpressNews.com, click the expandable menu (top left) and select e-edition.

San Antonio Express-News

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020 | EXPRESSNEWS.COM | Vol. 155, No. 181 | The voice of South Texas since 1865 | \$4.00

Mostly sunny: High 81, Low 62

CORONAVIRUS

Area hospital officials are worried

By Marina Starleaf Riker
STAFF WRITER

If San Antonio fails to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, medical professionals fear the region could run short of life-saving ventilators and qualified personnel to operate them.

An estimated 657 ventilators are available in the state-designated trauma care region that includes San Antonio.

That number is based on information from 43 of the region's 55

If curve not 'flattened,' ventilator supply could run short

general hospitals. The data were provided to Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff by University Hospital and reflect the ventilator supply as of Thursday morning. The numbers can change by the minute, depending on how many patients are using the machines.

"I think that's adequate if we flatten this curve," said Wolff, referring to the rate at which the virus sickens people. "But if we have

a big spike, we could have a big problem."

A dozen of the region's general hospitals didn't provide figures on how many ventilators they have available.

The San Antonio trauma care region, one of 20 in Texas, encompasses 22 counties with a combined population of more than 2.8 million.

Ventilators are one of the best

weapons in the fight against COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. In the most serious cases, people can become too sick to breathe on their own and can die if their lungs aren't assisted by the oxygen-pumping machines.

As of Saturday, five people had died and 140 had tested positive for the virus in Bexar County, the largest county in the trauma care region, with more than 2 million

residents.

It's unclear exactly how many ventilators there are in San Antonio. University Hospital, the centerpiece of the county health system and one of the largest hospitals in the city, said it has 104.

None of the other major hospital systems in the city disclosed figures.

Texas hospital and government officials have said they have enough machines and health care workers to run them — for now.

Hospitals continues on A16

Unknown is how long we stay home

By Gilbert Garcia
METRO COLUMNIST

Ron Nirenberg made a rare appearance on CNN last Tuesday. He was visibly irritated.

A day earlier, the San Antonio mayor had issued the fifth in a series of incremental restrictions to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The latest order — accompanied by a similar declaration from Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff — called on people to stay at home (while allowing for exempted activities such as grocery shopping, visiting health-care providers and taking outdoor walks) for a period of 16 days.

A few hours after the announcement of Nirenberg's stay-at-home order, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick appeared on Tucker Carlson's Fox News show.

Patrick tried to cast doubt on the wisdom of government efforts to slow the coronavirus's silent rampage across the United States by shutting down social and economic activity.

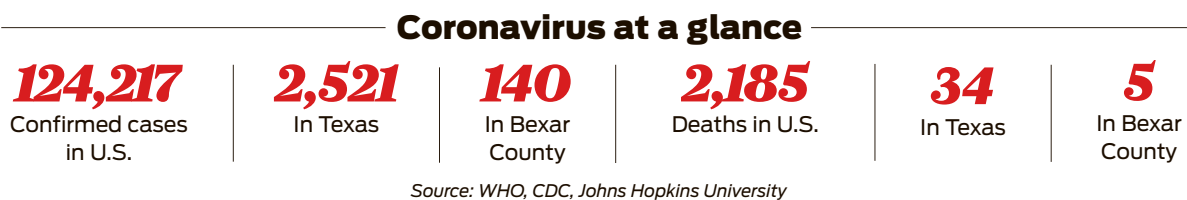
Patrick, seconding the let's-get-back-to-work sentiments tweeted by President Donald Trump, said some degree of public health risk was worth accepting if it meant we could rev up our country's idling private sector.

"Those of us who are 70-plus, we will take care of ourselves, but don't sacrifice the country," Patrick said.

Garcia continues on A2

More inside

- » Pizza parlor aided. **A2**
- » How you can help. **A2**
- » Easter park problems. **A3**
- » Proms canceled. **A3**
- » Distant entertainment. **A3**
- » Abortion debate. **A3**
- » Army units called. **A5**
- » Taliban attack. **A11**
- » Threat to grads. **A14**
- » Checks on the way. **A15**
- » UT QB helping out. **B1**
- » NFL business goes on. **B1**
- » Renters feel hopeless. **C1**
- » Volatility will pass. **C1**
- » Online banking rises. **C2**
- » Home offices. **C3**



They're the first S.A. family to feel pandemic's worst pain

Nursing home resident died of coronavirus complications



Robin Jerstad / Contributor

Zenzi Farrell-Lewis is the daughter of Leola Doris Wallace, the first local resident killed by the novel coronavirus. The playground equipment behind her has been sealed off to help prevent its spread.

By Emilie Eaton
STAFF WRITER

Zenzi Farrell-Lewis donned a face mask and gloves before she entered her mother's room at a Northeast Side nursing home.

Sitting next to the bed, she looked at her 83-year-old mother — everyone knew Leola Wallace by her middle name, Doris — and wondered whether this would be the last time she would hold her mother's hands or stroke her white, close-cropped hair.

For the past 12 years, Doris had lived with a type of dementia, but was stricken in recent days with pneumonia and a slight fever.

Knowing that the novel coronavirus was circulating in San Antonio, Farrell-Lewis took a disinfectant wipe and carefully cleaned her mother's hands and dabbed her forehead. She took off her mask and gloves and placed her hands around her mother's. She leaned



Courtesy

Doris Wallace, who was always known by her middle name, is seen in this family photo with her husband, Allee Wallace.

over and kissed her forehead.

Her mother, who had lost her ability to speak some time ago, didn't respond.

Farrell-Lewis' mind flooded with memories: the time her mother, a well-known local clothes designer, had sewn a three-piece, buttercup gold suit for her daughter to wear on picture day at school.

After taking a photo with her mother, Farrell-Lewis said her goodbyes.

She needed to check on her 85-year-old father, Allee Wallace, an Army veteran and photographer, who was having trouble breathing and had to be hospitalized.

The next day, March 20, Farrell-Lewis would learn that her father had contracted COVID-19 and that her mother likely had it, too.

Doris Wallace died a day later.

The highly contagious virus had taken its toll in

Family continues on A17

Trump will not seal off N.Y. area

By Michael D. Shear and Annie Karni
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Saturday he won't impose a quarantine on New York, New Jersey and Connecticut to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Instead, the president said he'll issue a "strong" travel advisory for the region to be enacted by the governors of the three states.

Trump made the announcement on Twitter just hours after telling reporters that he was considering a quarantine of the area in an effort to limit the spread of the virus to Florida and other parts of the country, a move that would have been a drastic exercise of federal power to further restrict travel by millions of Americans.

Trump had offered no details about how his administration would enforce a ban on movements in and out of the three northeastern states, including the country's most populous city, and the idea drew swift condemnation.

New York Gov. Andrew

Trump continues on A6

Lock in a great rate

1.70% APY

18-Month Certificate

Visit your nearest Credit Human location or call **800-688-7228**.

Learn more at CreditHuman.com/EarnMore



Annual percentage yield (APY) accurate as of 03/13/20 and subject to change. \$1,000 minimum balance required to earn APY. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Actual certificate dividend rate and APY based on the dividend rate in effect on date of deposit. Dividend rates are fixed unless otherwise stated. The APY assumes funds remain on deposit until maturity. A withdrawal of dividends will reduce earnings. Federally insured by NCUA.